

NOTE ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE GENITAL ORGANS OF A
TRUE HERMAPHRODITE.

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The true nature of this hermaphrodite, whose tissues I obtained from the Anatomy Department of the South African College, was only recognised after a thorough and minute examination of its genital organs. These belonged to a human being of the Bantu race, whose age at the time of death was about twenty years. During life this person passed as a male, was of unsound mind, and had the general appearance of a Kaffir girl with fairly large breasts and female pelvis.

A short, penis-like structure was found; labia majora covered with sparse hairs, but no external genital orifice beyond the opening of the urethra on tip of the glans penis. Internally a small, isolated vagina closed at both ends was found. A uterus, the mere remnant of the fundus and having no connection with vagina, had attached on either side a well-developed Fallopian tube, broad ligament, and round ligaments. Running through the uterus from the attachment of one Fallopian tube to the other was a minute lumen. The left ovary was of normal size, while the right ovary was double the size of the left due to acute inflammation of that gland.

A histological examination of all these structures revealed the following:

Penis.—The normal structure of a penis is present, only smaller in size and with a small urethra passing along its inferior surface and opening by a vertical slit at the tip of the glans penis. A cross-section of this organ shows the corpus cavernosum and urethra as in a normal penis. Another section taken just below the bladder shows a very close resemblance to prostatic tissue. At a lower level a cross-section shows bulbous tissue and corpus cavernosum.

Uterus.—A cross-section of the small atrophied uterus shows a small lumen lined with mucous membrane. The openings of the glands in this mucous membrane are lined with columnar epithelial tissue. The walls of the uterus consist of plain muscle, rich in blood-supply. The lumen of the uterus would just about admit an ordinary pin.

Left Ovary.—The main mass of the gland consists of fibrous stroma not unlike that of a normal ovary. It has a very rich blood-supply and contains a few peculiar glandular structures. Small structures, in appearance like Graafian follicles containing unripe ova, are found, but less numerous than in a normal human ovary. The ova have a mean diameter of $\cdot 033$ mm., with nuclei of diameter $\cdot 013$ mm. The sizes of these ova correspond closely to those of rabbit ova examined.

Right Ovary.—In parts this organ shows the same structure as the left ovary—*i. e.* fibrous stroma, peculiar glandular structures, Graafian follicles, and unripe ova. Other parts of the organ, however, are quite distinct and have the appearance of testicular substance. Here we find tubules very similar to seminiferous tubules with a lumen in most; no actual spermatozoa, however, could be detected, leading to the assumption that this testicular tissue could not have been functional. In parts this substance had the tubular appearance of epididymis, showing in some sections a distinct tubular outlet lined with columnar epithelium similar to the ductus deferens.